

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mae Elizabeth Robinson for her accomplishments and contributions. The life of Mae Robinson serves as an example of excellence to those in her life, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING MICHAEL LEE PLEZ

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to Mr. Michael Lee Plez; a community advocate and unsung hero for the children on the west side of Tallahatchie County.

Michael is a minister by trade, but a father of many, not just his own but all children. His passion and love to help children comes from his own childhood story. He was raised in a single parent home, where his mother was also his father. He joined the West Tallahatchie Mentor Male Involvement organization to encourage children at an early age by reading to them and participating in educational and fun activities. His colleagues and community members saw this passion in him and voted him as President of the Board for the Tallahatchie County Headstart Center. There was a lack of male involvement in the lives of children in the county, so, Michael reached out to the men and fathers and got their commitment and support on his efforts to increase male involvement. And, now the word on the street is that he has been successful in doing so because he led the charge as the model. Michael got the men to donate their time, skills and money to this worthy cause. Male presence began to increase in activities during school, after school and even on weekends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero for the children on the west side of Tallahatchie County, Mr. Michael Lee Plez.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fifty-six African-American students whose bravery and determination resulted in the University of New Orleans being the first university in the American South to open as a fully integrated institution of higher education. This year is the 55th anniversary of that historic moment in my district.

Established in 1956, The University of New Orleans was originally called Louisiana State University in New Orleans, or LSUNO. Classes began in September 1958 with a total of 1,460 students, all freshmen and double the number originally anticipated. Of that total, fifty-six African-American students registered to attend LSUNO that fall.

Four years after the Supreme Court struck down "separate, but equal" in the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, there were still some who would seek to deny these

students admission to the public university. Civil rights activists led by Alexander Pierre Tureaud, an attorney for the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during the civil rights movement, and Ernest V. "Dutch" Morial, who later became a two-term New Orleans mayor, brought suit in federal court to allow black students to attend LSUNO. While the local branch of the NAACP sought to prepare the African-American students for their groundbreaking efforts, leaders of the White Citizens Council of Greater New Orleans worked to provide harassing and degrading conditions for the students on a daily basis. Some of the African-American students were not able to endure such conditions for many weeks, while others remained in place for a few semesters. One of them, Mrs. Louise Williams Arnolie, still managed to graduate within four years.

The students encouraged one another throughout the painful process. LSUNO's classrooms and campus were integrated, but its privately managed dining hall barred African-Americans. The students petitioned the LSUNO administration to end the cafeteria's contract. Following continued pressure from attorneys Tureaud and Morial, as well as student boycotts, Dean Homer Hitt gave the cafeteria's managers an ultimatum in the fall semester of 1960: Either serve all students or give up the lease. The company chose to give up the lease, and every part of the university was by then integrated.

Today, the University of New Orleans is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the most ethnically diverse public university in the state. Let us never forget that this remarkable diversity did not come easily. I would like to acknowledge the names of those fifty-six brave and determined individuals who enrolled at the University of New Orleans in 1958: Brenda Holman Allen, Vincent A. Angeletta, Louise Williams Arnolie, Charles P. Breaux, Yvonne Buckles, Dorothy M. Caulfield, Janice E. Coleman-Sawyer, Laurence Crawford, Shirley M. Crawford, Claudine Curtis, Crystal M. Davis, Samuel Dugar, Josephine Eli, Wilson (Willison) Fleming, Harold L. Fontenette, Ferdinand J. Fortune III, Phillip L. Fortune, Geneva M. Gambrell, Jo Ann Gaskin, Charles S. Gibson, Peggy M.C. Jackson, Shirley M. Jennings, Alvin F. Johnson, Ervin C. Kinsey, Daniel J. Lewis, Sylvester Lyle Jr., Ernestine M. Lyons, Rosalee McKinley, Rosemary J. McLean, Doris J. Mackey, Lucy Madere, Rose Mary Mays, Priscilla L. Metoyer, Phillip F. Mitchell, Joseph L. Narcisse, Gwendolyn A. Norman, Audrey M. Page, Walter L. Peck, Marilyn J. Phillips, Nelson J. Pierce, Samuel G. Poplus, Geraldine Reimonenq, William Ricks, Patricia R. Robinson, Ronald Shiloh, Charles W. Smith, Mildred T. Smith, Warren A. Smith, Jacquelyn M. Stansberry, Gloria Stokes, Angela A. Vaughn, Jennie F. Warmington, Algie V. Williams, Charles K. Williams, Joseph L. Williams, and Ellis Wilson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634, I was unable to be present for

S1471, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF DEAN MAXWELL MITCHELL

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong and heartfelt appreciation of Mr. Dean Maxwell Mitchell, who has served as my Chief of Staff and Press Secretary since I was first sworn in to Congress in 1997. As he prepares to retire from more than seventeen years of service to my staff and me to the State of North Carolina, and to our nation, it is only appropriate that he be honored today.

A native of Quitman, Georgia, Dean graduated from the University of Georgia in 1986. He moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for U.S. Representative Charles Hatcher for eight years, during which time he rose from Staff Assistant to Legislative Assistant to Legislative Director, and ultimately served as his Chief of Staff. Before joining my office, he also worked as a Government Affairs Representative at King & Spalding Law Firm.

Upon my election to Congress in 1996, I knew I wanted to select an ethical, effective, intelligent Chief of Staff and Press Secretary who would serve the people of Eastern North Carolina with honor and kindness. Not only did I find those qualities in Dean, but I also found a friend and brother in Christ whom I have not only depended upon, but also admired.

For the past seventeen years, Dean has served as Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in my Washington office, which serves North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District. In his two critical roles, Dean has acted as my chief advisor on policy, communications, political matters, budget, and personnel; he has successfully managed the day-to-day operations of five congressional offices and twenty-one employees; he has instituted a number of effective outreach initiatives to assist constituents; he has supported our democracy by keeping the people of Eastern North Carolina informed about the work we do on their behalf. Not only this, but he has personally helped thousands of residents of the Seventh District with a wide range of requests, from the simple to the complex. On countless occasions, he has gone far beyond the obligations of duty for our constituents and staff.

Over the course of seventeen years, Dean has held his position of leadership with integrity, grace, and a spirit of giving. He has demonstrated an enduring and enthusiastic dedication to public service that makes him worthy of this recognition. Mr. Speaker, as Dean Mitchell's service to the Seventh Congressional District comes to a close, I ask you to join me in applauding his hard work and unwavering leadership.

May God's blessings always be upon him and his dear wife, Maggie, as well as his sons, Campbell, Henry, and Porter.